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ABSTRACT

These papers were written as supporting documents for a colloquium on the Vietnamese language. The first catalogues and analyzes Vietnamese vowels, diphthongs, consonants and tones. The second analyzes some facets of Vietnamese syntax. (CHK)

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SUPPORTING PAPERS

for

A COLLOQUIUM ON THE VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE

July 15, 1975

Phonology: NGUYEN HY QUANG

Syntax: DUONG THANH BINH

(Moderator: Kent Sutherland)

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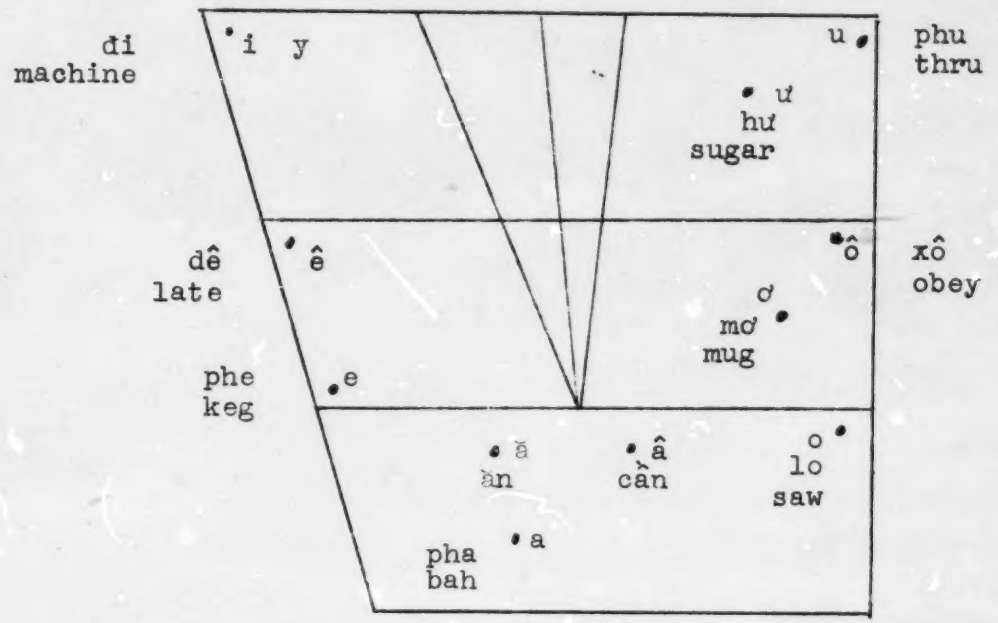
Vietnamese Phonology

by

Nguyễn-hy-Quang

I. Xin lỗi, có phải ông là ông Diện không?
Excuse me, are you Mr. Dien?

II. Vietnamese Vowel Chart:



đi	'to go'	machine	mơ	'to dream'	mug
dê	'goat'	late	xô	'to push'	obey
phe	'faction'	keg	hư	'broken'	sugar
pha	'to mix'	bah	phu	'coolie'	thru
lo	'to worry'	saw			

ăn	'to eat'	cần	'to need'
bắt	'to catch'	mấy	'how many?'
nắp	'lid'	nhân	'to multiply'

III. ý 'idea' ừ 'yes'

IV.

(V)	Á	'Asia'
(CV)	phá	'to wreck'
(VC)	ác	'cruel'
(CVC)	xám	'grey'

V. Diphthongs:

Group I:

hai	'two'	nói	'to speak'
đây	'here'	túi	'pocket'
tôi	'I, me'	người	'people'

Group II:

bia	'monument'	uống	'to drink'
mua	'to buy'	trường	'school'
mưa	'rain'		

Group III:

nhiều	'much, many'	sau	'after'
theo	'to follow'	lâu	'long time'
kêu	'to call'	cứu	'to rescue'

Group IV:

a/	giày	'shoes'	dạy	'to teach'
	dầu	'oil'	giỏi	'good'
	dùng	'to use'	giếng	'well'
b/	hoàn	'to return'		
	tòa	'building'		
	soát	'to check'		

c/ NGUYỄN ng-(labialized) + 'w-' on glide + wowel i + off glide (Group II diphthong) + -n (pronounced '-ng').

VI. Consonants

Initial Consonants:

m-	ma 'ghost'	'm' in 'man'	voiced, bilabial nasal
ph-	pha 'to mix'	'ph' in photo	voiceless, labio-dental fricative
x-	xa 'far'	's' in 'sun'	voiceless, apico-alveolar fricative
n-	no '	'n' in 'now'	voiced apico-alveolar nasal
l-	ly 'glass'	'l' in 'line'	voiced apico-alveolar lateral
d- (or gi)	dê 'goat'	'y' in 'yet'	voiced, high front, unrounded semivowel
h-	ho 'to cough'	'h' in 'hog'	voiceless, glottal fricative
b-	ba 'three'	'b' in 'bat'	voiced bilabial imploded stop
v-	vô 'to enter'	'v' in 'revue'	voiced palatalized, labio-dental fricative
t-	to 'big'	't' in 'stop'	voiceless, unaspirated dental stop
th-	thu 'autumn'	't' in 'top'	voiceless, strongly aspirated dental
đ-	đo 'to measure'	'd' in 'duck'	voiced, apico-alveolar imploded stop
ch-	cha 'father'	'ch' in 'chop'	voiceless, slightly affricated unaspirated, lamino-alveolar stop
tr-	tre 'bamboo'	'tr' in 'trot'	voiceless, apico-alveolar, slightly affricated retroflex stop
nh-	nho 'grapes'	'n' in 'menu'	voiced, lamino-alveolar nasal
s-	sa 'to fall'	's' in 'sugar'	voiceless, apico-alveolar, retroflex spirant
r-	ra 'to exit'	'r' in 'red'	voiced, apico-alveolar, retroflex, oral, continuant, or flap
c- (or k-)	cao 'tall'	'c' in 'cat'	voiceless, unaspirated, dorso-velar stop
kh-	khi 'time'	'ch' in German 'ach'	voiceless, dorso-velar spirant
g- (or gh-)	ga 'station'	'g' in 'gun'	voiced, dorso-velar spirant
ng- (or ngh-)	nga 'moon'	'ng' in 'singer'	voiced, dorso-velar nasal

VII. Final Consonants

a/ Nasals:

-m	tôm	'shrimp'	'm' in 'jam'	voiced, unreleased, bilabial nasal; preceding vowel short
-nh -n	đinh xin	'nail' 'beg'	'n' in 'ten'	voiced, unreleased, apico-alveolar nasal; preceding vowel short
-ng (following vowel other than o-, ô-, u-) -n (following vowel other than i-, ê-, ô-, u-)				
	tháng kén	'month' 'choosy'	'ng' in 'song'	voiced, unreleased, dorso-velar nasal, preceding vowel short

b/ Stops:

-p	bếp	'kitchen'	'p' in 'stop'	voiceless, bilabial, unreleased stop, preceding vowel short
-ch -t (following i-, ê-)			't' in 'hat'	voiceless, dental, unreleased stop; preceding vowel short
	ếch ít	'frog' 'little'		
-c (following vowel other than o-, ô-, u-) -t (following vowel other than i-, ê-, ô-, u-)				
	nhạc tất	'music' 'all'	'k' in 'take'	voiceless, dorso-velar, unreleased stop, preceding vowel short

c/ Coarticulated Nasals and Stops:

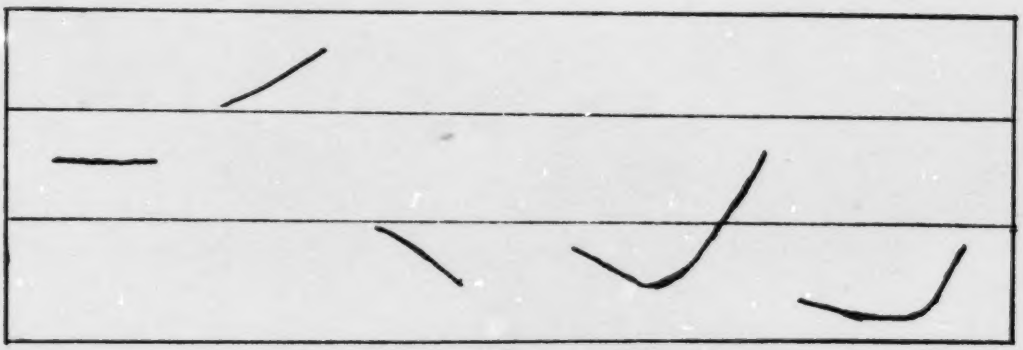
-ng (following o-, ô, u-)
-n (following ô-, u-)

ong hôn	'bee' 'kiss'	'ng' in 'song' and 'm' in 'sum' simultaneously	voiced, dorso-velar, unreleased nasal, with coarticulated bilabial nasal

-c (following o-, ô-, u-)
-t (following ô-, u-)

tốt đọc	'good' 'to read'	'k' in 'take' and 'p' in 'stop' simultaneously	voiceless, dorso-velar unreleased stop, with coarticulated bilabial stop

VIII. Tones:



1/ No symbol

2/	ma	má	'ghost'	'cheeck'
	co	có	'to contract'	'to have'
	mua	múa	'to buy'	'go dance'
	tim	tím	'heart'	'purple'
	ly	lý	'glass'	'reason'
3/	ma	mà	'ghost'	'but'
	co	cò	contract'	'stork'
	mua	mùa	'buy'	'season'
	tim	tìm	'heart'	'to search'
	canh	cành	'soup'	'branch'
4/	co	cỏ	'contract'	'grass
	ma	mả	'ghost'	'tomb'
	cô	cô	'girl'	'neck'
	la	lã	'shout'	'plain (water)'
	phai	phải	'fade'	'to be right'
5/	la	lạ	'shout'	'strange'
	dâu	đậu	'where?'	'beans'
	hai	hại	'two'	'losses'
	ban	bạn	'committee'	'friend'

THE VIETNAMESE SYNTAX

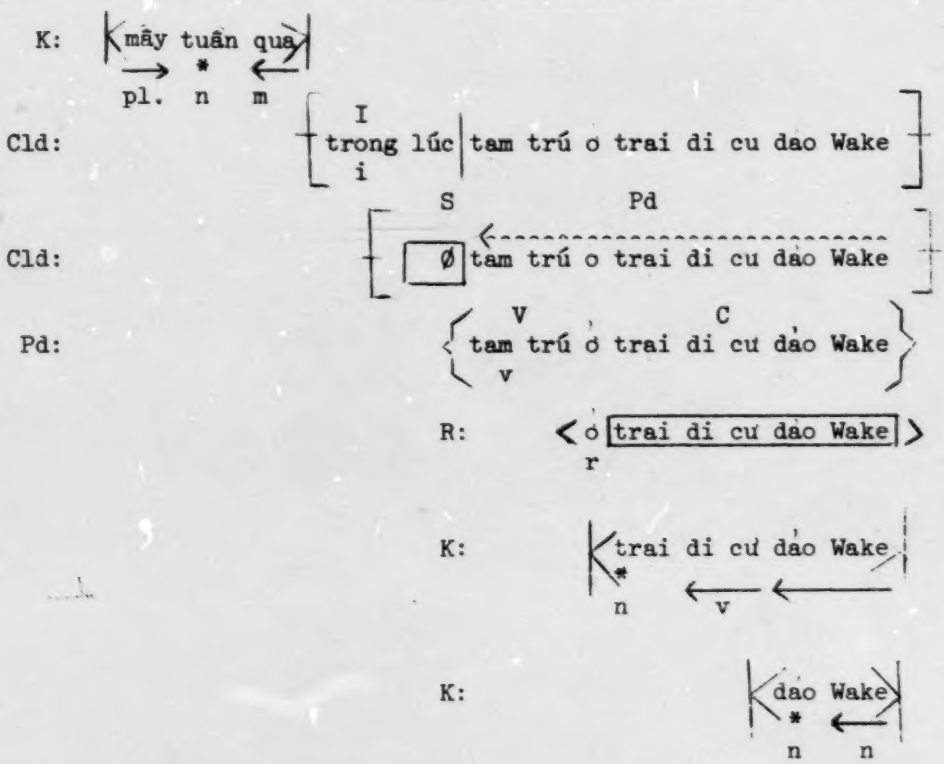
by

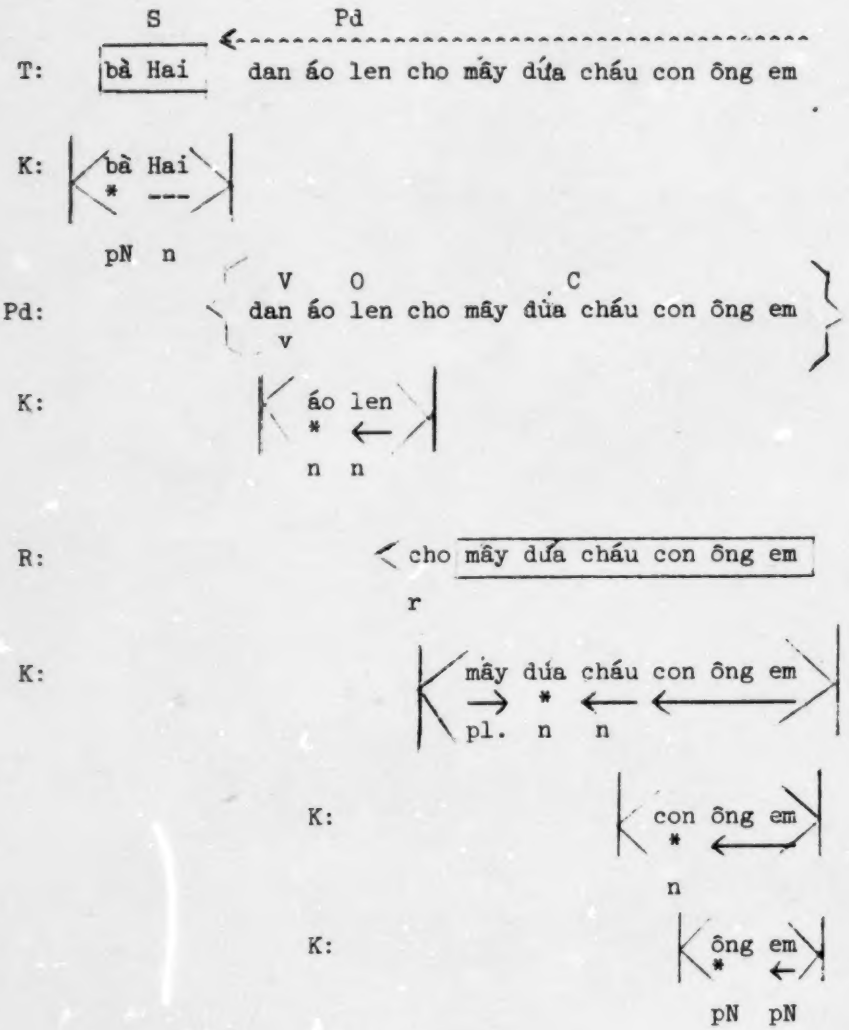
Dương Thanh Bình

July 15, 1975

U: Mấy tuần qua, trong lúc tạm trú ở trai di cư đảo Wake,)
bà Hai dan áo len cho mấy đứa cháu con ông em.

F: mấy tuần qua, trong lúc tạm trú ở trai di cư đảo Wake

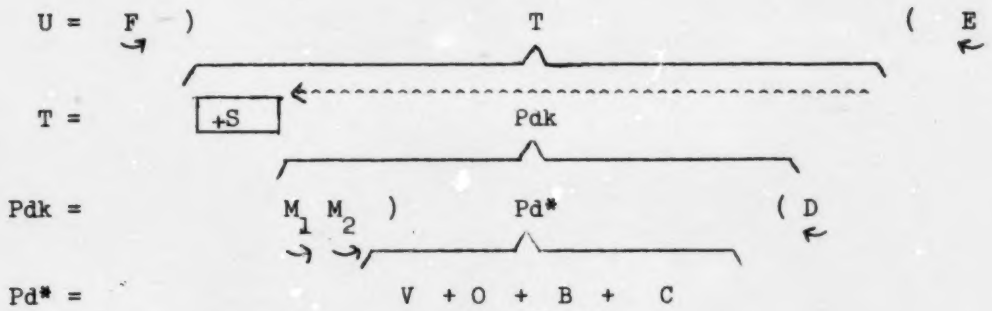




TRANSLATION: In the past few weeks, while staying temporarily in the refugee camp in Wake Island, Mrs. Hai knitted sweaters for her brother's children.

LITERAL: Some week past, in time temporary stay at camp refugee island Wake, Mrs. Hai knit jacket wool for some person child Mr. younger sibling.

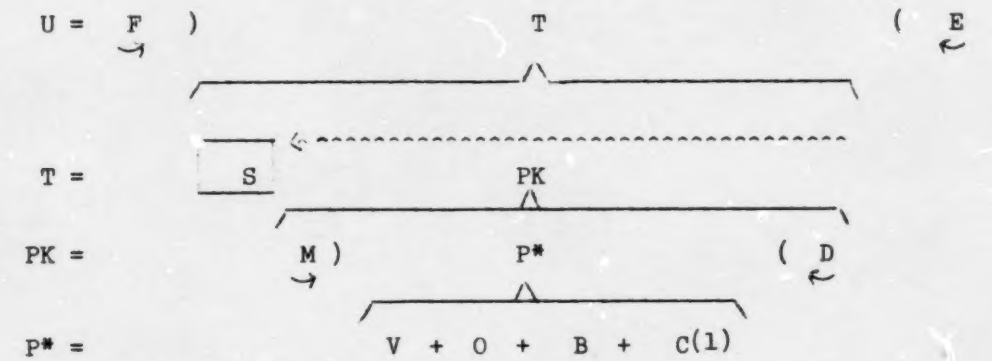
THE FOUR TOP LEVELS IN VIETNAMESE SENTENCES:



The complete spectrum of the sectors in Vietnamese:

Y Em. L F I S M_1 TR M_2 Neg. Pass. V B C O B C D E Q Z

THE FOUR TOP LEVELS IN ENGLISH SENTENCES:



The complete spectrum of sectors in English:

L Y F I X S M X M V $\tilde{C}$ $\tilde{B}$ O B C_1 C_2 C_3 D_1 D_2 PP E_1 E_2 E_3 PP $Z^{(2)}$

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(1) Robert L. Allen, A Modern Grammar of Written English,(New York, The Macmillan Company, in press), p. 18.

(2) Lecture notes on Sector Analysis given by Dr. Robert L. Allen, New York City, Teachers' College, Columbia University, Spring Session, 1965.

U: Sentence level
T: Trunk level
PK: Predicate cluster
Pdk: Predicatid cluster
P*: Predicate nucleus
Pd*: Predicatid nucleus
F: Front sentence adverbial
E: End sentence adverbial
Y: Response signals, greetings
L: Position for sentence linkers
I: Position for introducers
X,X̆: Positions for x-words
TR: Position for time-relationship particle
Neg: Position for negators

S: Subject sector
M: Middle position
D: Droppable position
V: Verbal position
O: Object position
B: Particle position
C: Complement position
B̆: Shifted B position
C̆: Shifted C position
Z: Final position for attention signals
PP: Positions for postponed subject and object
Q: Position for question words
Pass: Position for passive words

EXAMPLES:

		F		E
U:	1a.	Năm ngoái	tôi về Saigon.	
	b.		Tôi về Saigon năm ngoái.	

Translation: 1a. Last year I cam back to Saigon.
Literal: (Year past I return Saigon.)
b. I came back to Saigon last year.
(I return Saigon year past.)

		F		E
U:	2a.	Hôm nào	anh đi?	
	b.		anh đi hôm nào?	

Translation: 2a. When will you go?
Literal: (Day what elder brother go?)
b. When did you go?
(Elder brother go day what?)

		S	PdK
T:	3.	Tôi	về Saigon nhiều lần.

Translation: 3. I went back to Saigon several times.
Literal: (I return Saigon several time.)

		S	M_1	V	C		
T:	4.	Bà Hai	cũng	về	Saigon.		
		S	TR	M_2	V	C	
	5.	Bà Hai	sẽ	mãi mãi	trú ngụ	nơi đây.	
		S	V	O	D		
	6.	Bà Hai	nói	tiếng Anh	rất hay.		

Translation: 4. Mrs. Hai <u>also</u> came back to Saigon.
Literal: (Mrs. Mai also return Saigon.)
5. Mrs. Hai will <u>always</u> live here.
(Mrs. Hai later time particle always live place here.)
6. Mrs. Hai speaks English <u>very well</u>.
(Mrs. Hai speak sound Britain very well.)

V O B C
Pd*: 7. Dem cái lược này lên cho cô Mai.

Translation: 7. Take this comb up to Miss Mai.
Literal: (Carry inanimate determiner comb this up for Miss Mai.)

S PP
8. <u>It</u>'s not true <u>that yesterday was my birthday</u>.

O PP
9. I find it hard <u>to believe that he can come here</u>.

<u>Clausid</u>:

10. mat trang khuât sau dám mây

Literal: 10. (face moon hide behind mass cloud)

<u>Clause</u>:

11a. the moon <u>was hiding</u> behind the clouds

<u>Clausid</u>:

11b. the moon <u>hiding</u> behind the clouds

<u>Prepositional phrase</u>:

12a. R: trong <u>vuon hồng</u> (r)
K: vuon hồng (* ←; n n)

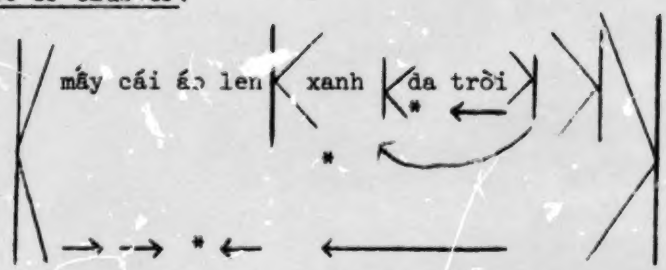
12b. R: in <u>the rose garden</u> (r)
K: the rose garden (→ → *; a n n)

Literal: 12a. (in garden rose)

R: prepositional phrase; K: cluster

Noun phrase or cluster:

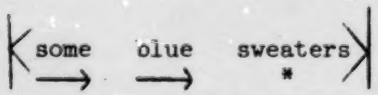
13a.K: mấy cái áo len xanh da trời



pl. pr. d.n n m n n

Literal: 13a. (some inanimate determiner jacket wool blue/green skin sky)

13b. some blue sweaters



d adj. n

Illustration of lack of Verb tenses in Vietnamese.

		F		V	
14a.	Hôm qua	tôi		ăn	ba qua cam.
b.	Hôm nay	tôi		an	ba quả cam.
c.	Ngày mai	tôi	lại	ăn	ba quả cam.

Translation: 14a. Yesterday I ate three oranges.
Literal: (Day past I eat three fruit orange.)
b. Today I eat three oranges.
(Day now I eat three fruit orange.)
c. Tomorrow I will again eat three oranges.
(Day future I again eat three fruit orange.)

Noun phrase or cluster:

15a. cái bút — a pen
(inanimate determiner pen)

b. con gà — a chicken
(animate determiner chicken)

c. mấy cái bút — some pens
(some inanimate determiner pen)

d. bút — pens
(unmarked) plural (marked) plural

e.

tôi	(I, neutral)		I
cô	(Miss/aunt)		
bác	(uncle/aunt)		you
ông...	(Mr./grandfather)		